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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/494,751	01/31/2000	Bernard Rees Smith	0769.00136	3862
23552	7590	05/05/2004	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			DO, PENSEE T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1641	

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/494,751

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Pensee T. Do

Art Unit

1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 63-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 63-76 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 91 and 92 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 77-90 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 63-92 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Amendment Entry & Claim Status***

The amendment filed on February 11, 2004 has been acknowledged and entered.

### ***Withdrawn Rejection(s)***

The 112, 1<sup>st</sup> rejection applied in the previous office action is withdrawn herein. (rejection regarding that example 4 teaches the last 60 amino acids of the TSHR encoded by cDNA base pairs 1809-2295).

### ***Maintained Rejection(s)***

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 77-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Enablement requires that the specification teach those in the art to make and use the invention without undue experimentation. Factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure would require undue experimentation include (1) nature of the invention, (2) the state of the prior art, (3) the predictability or lack thereof in the art, (4) the amount of direction or guidance present, (5) the presence or absence of working

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examples, (6) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (7) the relative skill of those in the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

*The nature of the invention:* - the instant invention is directed to a kit for detecting autoantibodies to thyroid stimulating hormone receptor (TSHR) or at least a TSHR fragment which kit comprises a source of TSHR, said TSHR having at least a first and second distinct epitope regions, wherein autoantibodies to said TSHR or TSHR fragment bind to the first epitope region but not said second epitope region; at least one antibody or fragment thereof, that binds to said second epitope region of the TSHR or TSHR fragment.

*The state of the art:* - the prior art fails to teach a kit comprising a TSHR comprising two distinct epitope regions.

*The predictability or lack thereof in the art:* - in view of the lack of teachings in the prior art that show or suggests a TSHR with two distinct epitopes regions for binding to autoantibodies and antibody respectively, the level of predictability is low. The specification fails to teach specific epitope regions on the TSHR. Without the specific epitope regions, antibodies (which binds to the second epitope region) cannot be generated.

*The amount of direction or guidance present:* - the instant specification fails to provide guidance on how to generate antibodies that binds to the specific epitope region on the TSHR.

The presence or absence of working examples: - there is no examples in the specification that show generation of antibody which specifically binds to the second epitope region or specific epitope region to which autoantibodies would bind.

The quantity of experimentation necessary: - it would require an undue amount of experimentation for a skilled artisan to make and use the invention as claimed.

The relative skill of those in the art: The level of skill in the art is high.

The breadth of the claims: - the claimed kit is directed to a TSHR comprising two distinct epitope regions wherein autoantibodies bind to the first epitope region and at least one antibody or fragment thereof binds to the second epitope region.

The instant specification fails to describe specific epitope regions on the TSHR. Any four amino acids would constitute an epitope. However, in order to generate antibodies that bind to a specific region on the TSHR, such specific region has to be known. An undue amount of experimentation would be required to identify any and all the possible epitopes found on the TSHR to enable the claimed kit.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed February 11, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues teaching of two specific epitope regions on the TSH receptor is unnecessary because the specification does teach how to make and use the invention without including this information. The specific regions on the TSH receptor that are bound to the antibodies are irrelevant. The only important aspect of the two sites is that they do not overlap. Creation of the monoclonal antibody (i.e. element (b) of claim 77)

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for binding to the second epitope, by using an intracellular region of the TSH receptor ensures that there will be no overlap because the autoantibody, which binds to the first epitope, binds to an extracellular portion of the TSH receptor.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., second epitope is intracellular and first epitope is extracellular) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Claim 77 fails to recite that the first epitope on the TSHR is extracellular and the second epitope of the TSHR is intracellular. Furthermore, since any four amino acids would constitute an epitope, such specific epitope on TSHR has to be known in order to generate antibodies that bind to that specific region. Example 4 of the specification particularly teaches that the last 60 amino acids of the TSHR constitute a region where the antibody or fragment thereof would bind. Therefore, it is critical that this specific region, the last 60 amino acids, of the TSHR is recited in the claims.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 91-92 are allowable.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pensee T. Do whose telephone number is 571-272-0819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Pensee T. Do  
Patent Examiner  
April 23, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher L. Chin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "L".

CHRISTOPHER L. CHIN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP ~~1800~~ 1641





# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/494,751	01/31/2000	Bernard Rees Smith	0769.00136	3862

23552 7590 08/12/2003

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P.O. BOX 2903  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

DO, PENSEE T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1641

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/494,751	SMITH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Pensee T. Do	1641	

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 63-90 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 63-76 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 77-90 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response Entry & Claim Status*

The response filed on May 19, 2003 has been acknowledged and entered.

Claims 77-90 are pending. Claims 63-76 are non-elected.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 77-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Enablement requires that the specification teach those in the art to make and use the invention without undue experimentation. Factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure would require undue experimentation include (1) nature of the invention, (2) the state of the prior art, (3) the predictability or lack thereof in the art, (4) the amount of direction or guidance present, (5) the presence or absence of working examples, (6) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (7) the relative skill of those in the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

*The nature of the invention:* - the instant invention is directed to a kit for screening autoantibodies to thyroid stimulating hormone receptor (TSHR) or at least a

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TSHR fragment which kit comprises a source of TSHR or a TSHR fragment, said TSHR or TSHR fragment each having at least a first and second distinct epitope regions, wherein autoantibodies to said TSHR or TSHR fragment bind to the first epitope region but not said second epitope region; at least one antibody or fragment thereof, that binds to said second epitope region of the TSHR or TSHR fragment.

The state of the art: - the prior art fails to teach a kit comprising a TSHR or a TSHR fragment comprising THS receptor fragment wherein autoantibodies to said TSHR fragment bind to the first epitope region but not second epitope region.

The predictability or lack thereof in the art:- in view of the lack of teachings in the prior art that show or suggests TSHR or TSHR fragment that have epitopes that are recognized by autoantibodies. The teaching in the specification, example 4, that the last sixty amino acids of the TSHR encoded by cDNA base pairs 1809-2295 was employed in the fusion protein because it represents a region of the TSHR that is almost entirely intracellular (within the cell) and thus not likely to interact with the TSHR autoantibodies present in the circulation is contrary to the requirement of the claimed invention- the TSHR is recognized by the autoantibodies.

The amount of direction or guidance present: - the instant specification fails to provide guidance on how the TSHR which has an intracellular region would be recognized by the autoantibodies.

The presence or absence of working examples:- there is no examples in the specification that show the intracellular region of the TSHR which would be recognized by autoantibodies.

The quantity of experimentation necessary: - it would require an undue amount of experimentation for a skilled artisan to make and use the invention as claimed.

The relative skill of those in the art: The level of skill in the art is high.

The breadth of the claims:- the claimed kit is directed to a TSHR or TSHR fragment comprising two distinct epitope regions wherein autoantibodies bind to the first epitope region and at least one antibody or fragment thereof binds to the second epitope region.

The declaration filed on May 19, 2003, page 1, paragraph 3, states that example 4 teaches that the last 60 amino acids of the TSHR encoded by cDNA base pairs 1809-2295 was employed in the fusion protein because it represents a region of the TSHR that is almost entirely intracellular and as such is unlikely to interact with the TSHR autoantibodies. Such fact is contrary to the requirement of claim 77 part (a) that that TSHR fragment has epitopes that are recognized by the autoantibodies. Therefore, the generated monoclonal antibodies would not bind to the same epitopes as the autoantibodies as required in the claims of the present invention.

### ***Response to Arguments***

The arguments filed on May 19, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not found persuasive.

The claims were previously rejected under 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph for not enabled by the specification. The specification fails to teach two specific epitopes regions on the TSHR or TSHR fragment or how to generate antibodies that bind only one of the specific epitope regions. Applicants traverses this rejection because examples 1-5 on

pages 8-10 of the specification teaches how to produce an antibody that binds TSH receptor at the same time as TSH, indicating TSH receptor has at least two distinct epitope regions, with the antibody binding one region and TSH binding the other region.

Example 1 of the specification is teaching the preparation of cDNA clones for the full-length porcine TSH receptor. While the specification might be enable for the porcine TSH receptor and the method for cloning porcine TSH receptor, there is nowhere in the specification that discloses specific epitope regions on the TSH or TSH fragment or a method for generating antibodies that bind to a specific region on the TSHR or fragment.

Example 2 describes the preparation of a stable cell line for expressing the TSH receptor. However, example 2 fails to teach the specific epitope regions on the TSHR or fragment or a method for generating antibodies that bind to a specific region on the TSHR or fragment.

Example 3 describes the preparation of detergent solubilized recombinant porcine TSH receptor expressed by a stable cell line prepared per the teaching of example 2. However, example 3 fails to teach the specific epitope regions on the TSHR or fragment or a method for generating antibodies that bind to a specific region on the TSHR or fragment.

Example 4 describes the preparation of a fusion protein. However, example 4 fails to teach the specific epitope regions on the TSHR or fragment or a method for generating antibodies that to bind a specific region on the TSHR or fragment.

Example 5 teaches immunization of BALB C mice with electroeluted TSH receptor/GST fusion protein until the titer of antibody was high. However, example 5 fails to teach the specific epitope regions on the TSHR or fragment or a method for generating antibodies that bind to a specific region on the TSHR or fragment.

Applicants also submit that Applicants have reproduced the referred examples 1-5 and have prepared a second antibody, Mab 8B7, in response to the recombinant fusion protein as taught by the examples. Applicants have further characterized the binding properties for Mab 8B7 and have found that Mab 8B7 binds to an epitope region of the TSH receptor distinct from an epitope region recognized by autoantibodies to the TSH receptor. Applicants also have enclosed a declaration by Dr. Bernard Rees Smith to substantiate the above, detailing the preparation and characterization of Mab 8B7.

Since examples 1-5 fail to teach the specific epitope regions on the TSHR or fragment or a method for generating antibodies that bind to a specific region on the TSHR or fragment, reproducing examples 1-5 would not satisfy the requirements of the specific epitope regions on the TSHR or fragment or a method of generating antibodies to a specific region on the TSHR or fragment.

***Maintained Rejection(s)***

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 77-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Enablement requires that the specification teach those in the art to make and use the invention without undue experimentation. Factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure would require undue experimentation include (1) nature of the invention, (2) the state of the prior art, (3) the predictability or lack thereof in the art, (4) the amount of direction or guidance present, (5) the presence or absence of working examples, (6) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (7) the relative skill of those in the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

*The nature of the invention:* - the instant invention is directed to a kit for detecting autoantibodies to thyroid stimulating hormone receptor (TSHR) or at least a TSHR fragment which kit comprises a source of TSHR or a TSHR fragment, said TSHR or TSHR fragment each having at least a first and second distinct epitope regions, wherein autoantibodies to said TSHR or TSHR fragment bind to the first epitope region but not said second epitope region; at least one antibody or fragment thereof, that binds to said second epitope region of the TSHR or TSHR fragment.

*The state of the art:* - the prior art fails to teach a kit comprising a TSHR or a TSHR fragment comprising two distinct epitope regions.

*The predictability or lack thereof in the art:* - in view of the lack of teachings in the prior art that show or suggests TSHR or TSHR fragment with two distinct epitopes



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regions for binding to autoantibodies and antibody respectively, the level of predictability is low. The specification fails to teach specific epitope regions on the TSHR or TSHR fragment. Without the specific epitope regions, antibodies (which binds to the second epitope region) cannot be generated.

The amount of direction or guidance present: - the instant specification fails to provide guidance on how to generate antibodies that binds to the specific epitope region on the TSHR or TSHR fragment.

The presence or absence of working examples: - there is no examples in the specification that show generation of antibody which specifically binds to the second epitope region or specific epitope region to which autoantibodies would bind.

The quantity of experimentation necessary: - it would require an undue amount of experimentation for a skilled artisan to make and use the invention as claimed.

The relative skill of those in the art: The level of skill in the art is high.

The breadth of the claims: - the claimed kit is directed to a TSHR or TSHR fragment comprising two distinct epitope regions wherein autoantibodies bind to the first epitope region and at least one antibody or fragment thereof binds to the second epitope region.

The instant specification fails to describe specific epitope regions on the TSHR or TSHR fragment. Any four amino acid would constitute an epitope. However, in order to generate antibodies that bind to a specific region on the TSHR or fragment, such specific region has to be known. An undue amount of experimentation would be

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required to identify any and all the possible epitopes found on the TSHR or fragment to enable the claimed kit.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pensee T. Do whose telephone number is 703-308-4398. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 703-305-3399. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications and 703-746-5291 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Pensee T. Do  
Patent Examiner  
August 3, 2003



CHRISTOPHER L. CHIN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1800-1641

8/2/03